3:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MMl Aden MMl

Primary Education

872 The normal primary course is of four to five years, consisting of a preparatory stage, of one to two years, and three standards above it. Primary education is given, so far as is possible, through the vernaculars of the pupils and, except in cases where the appropriate vernacular education is not obtainable, pupils are not normally allowed to enter a school in which English is used throughout as the medium of teaching until they have completed a primary course in their own vernacular. In Government schools and in most others English is not taught during the primary course.

[871] The language of over 60 per cent. of the population and the language of instruction in the Government Primary Schools, for both boys and girls, is Arabic. Primary school education for boys and girls is provided also through English, Gujarati and Urdu in aided schools and through Hebrew to a limited extent in unrecognized schools.

The following table gives the nominal roll and attendance figures for the primary schools in 1938 :—

	Number of Schools.				*Average Number on Rolls.*			*Average attendance.*
	Government.	*Aided.*	*Unrecognized.*	*Total.*	*Boys.*	*Girls.*	*Total.*	
Boys ...	4	6	4	14	1,181	109*	1,290	1,140
Girls ...	2	4	1	7	20	527	547	474

* The large majority of these were in the lower classes of the Urdu schools.

The numbers of pupils in Government and aided primary schools were, boys 955, girls 468, total 1,423.

[879] Of the non-Government primary schools two aided boys' schools and one unrecognized boys' school are managed by the Roman Catholic Mission, one aided girls' school by the Danish Church Mission, one aided boys' school by the Church of Scotland Mission, and the rest by private local management.

872 873 At the end of the primary course a public examination is held through Arabic and Urdu, mainly as a qualifying test for admission to the lower section of the Government Secondary School. In 1938 127 candidates entered for this examination and 79 passed. Failure in this examination does not necessarily debar a pupil from entering the secondary school, but priority of place is generally given to those who pass.

4:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 MM1 Aden MM1

Arabic primary schools. This post, now abolished, was held by a seconded Arab officer of the Palestine Education Department. 871

To advise Government on educational matters there is an Advisory Committee, consisting of leading citizens under the chairmanship of the Civil Secretary.

In respect of management and degree of Government control, schools are classified as Government recognized aided, recognized unaided, and unrecognized unaided. In respect of academic standard and nature of instruction they are classified as secondary, primary, " indigenous " and " special ". During the period under review there were no recognized unaided schools, and this category, therefore, will be omitted in the tables which follow.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The normal primary course is of four to five years, consisting of a preparatory stage, of one to two years, and three standards above it. 872

Primary education is given so far as is possible through the vernaculars of the pupils and, except in cases where no vernacular education is obtainable, pupils are not allowed to enter a school in which English is used throughout as the medium until they have completed a primary course through their own vernacular. In Government schools and in most others, English is not taught during the primary course.

The language of over 60 per cent. of the population and the language of instruction in the Government primary schools, both boys' and girls', is Arabic. Primary school education for boys and girls is provided also through English, Gujarati and Urdu in aided schools and through Hebrew, to a limited extent, in unrecognized schools.

The following table shows the number of primary schools in 1937:—

	Boys.	*Girls.*
Government	4	2
Aided	5	4
Unrecognized	3	1
Average number on rolls	1,221	120*
	15	512

* The large majority of these were in the lower classes of the Urdu schools.

The numbers of pupils in Government and aided primary schools were: boys 889, girls 481.

Of the aided schools, two girls' schools are maintained by the Roman Catholic Mission and one by the Danish Church Mission; one boys' school by the Church of Scotland Mission and the rest by private local management.

The unaided schools are all under private local management.

At the end of the primary course a public examination is held, mainly as a qualifying test for admission to the lower section 872 873

4:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 MM1 Aden MM1

872 of the Government Secondary School. In 1937 132 candidates
873 entered for this examination and 102 passed. Failure in this examination does not necessarily debar a pupil from entering the secondary school, but priority of place is generally given to those who pass. No provision is made for Gujarati, Hebrew or English in this examination.

872 "INDIGENOUS" SCHOOLS, QURAN SCHOOLS AND TALMUD TORAS.

"Indigenous" schools are schools of a primitive nature which attempt to serve the immediate requirements of certain classes of a conservative population. They combine with religious teaching some measure of general primary education.

The more advanced of these are assisted by Government, mainly through *per capita* grants and through free loans of text-books and school equipment.

Quran schools and Talmud Toras are, in most cases, still more primitive and provide little or no general education.

The figures for these schools in 1937 are as below:—

Indigenous Schools, Quran Schools and Talmud Toras.	*Number of Schools.*	*Number on Rolls.*	
		Boys.	*Girls.*
Aided	3	87	27
Unrecognized	33	987	154

It has been the practice for a number of children to pass through these schools before applying for entrance to proper primary schools.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

873 The full secondary course is at present of six standards, at the end of which candidates sit for the Junior Cambridge Examination. This course may be taken completely through English in three aided and two unrecognized schools. For schools using media other than English, the course is of two sections, a lower of three standards through the vernacular and a higher of three standards through English.

The lower secondary course is available for boys through Arabic in the Government and one aided school, and through Gujarati in one other aided school. Pupils attending Urdu primary schools endeavour to acquire during their primary course sufficient Arabic to enable them to join an Arabic lower secondary course, because funds, public or private, do not permit of the provision of a lower secondary course through Urdu. A lower secondary course is provided in the Jewish boys' school, but the medium of instruction is Arabic though written in Hebrew characters. The teaching of English is begun, in Government schools, in the first year of the secondary course.

Secondary education for girls is obtainable only through English, in the two Franciscan convent schools.